



UZABE:

**NIGERIA DECIDES**  
**2023: CITIZEN LED**  
Election Report

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The 2023 Nigerian General Election marked a fundamental step towards the consolidation of Nigeria's democratic development, as this election was the first on the heels of the passage of the 2022 Nigeria Electoral Act. CODE, Nigeria's foremost non-governmental organization, with its mission of empowering marginalized communities, developed and deployed its election intelligence observation system (UZABE) to improve election process reporting and gather real-time information on the 2023 general election process.

The deployment of UZABE in this election cycle aligns with CODE's objective to increase and share innovative

approaches to information exchange through experimentation, research, and technology. Also, as an accredited INEC elections observer, CODE collaborated with other CSOs to actively participate in the 2023 election observation process, while training and deploying over 20,000 volunteer polling station observers. CODE's Situation Room received and subjected incident reports to a multi-level verification system to provide 12,889 authenticated and verified reports across the 2023 election cycle, which provided a picture of Nigeria's 2023 electoral process.

This report reviews the findings of this election observation tool and offers some recommendations to various stakeholders for implementation and consideration.

These observers, coordinated by our state-leads and CODE's Situation Room, provided on-the-spot incident reports covering areas such as the early arrival of INEC officials, the availability of security personnel, sufficient provision for persons living with disabilities (PWD), the election-day turnout rates for women in polling units, vote buying, voter suppression, BVAS turn-around time, and voter accreditation issues, among many other areas. The deployment of UZABE in this election cycle also represents CODE's effort to combat the incidence of misinformation and fake news that usually characterizes election day reporting, thus improving the quality of citizens' participation in election day reporting.

Some of the findings from our observations of the 2023 elections are as follows:

- Our data showed that during the first part of the 2023 elections (i.e., the Presidential and

National Assembly Elections), logistics and security challenges indicated by INEC impacted the prescribed time for polls opening in some states of the federation. During the Presidential Elections, UZABE showed that 53 percent of INEC’s polling officials arrived after 8 a.m. across the country where our observers were deployed, with the South-East (86 percent), North-West (62 percent), and South-South (56 percent) geopolitical zones recording the highest incident reports for late arrival of INEC polling officials. For the Gubernatorial and state house of assembly elections, INEC addressed most of these logistics issues and improved the arrival time for election officials.

- While INEC indicated that over 90 million Nigerians had registered to vote and over 80 million had collected their permanent voter cards (PVCs), a significant number of voters in this election cycle were accredited using the PVCs. Overall and across all polling locations where UZABE was deployed, 93 percent of voter accreditation utilized the prescribed Bimodal Voters Accreditation System (BVAS) as indicated by the 2022 Nigeria Electoral Act. However, during the Presidential and Gubernatorial elections, 7 percent of observations indicate that voters were accredited without a PVC. This was most prevalent in the Northwest. The South-South and South-West also recorded the lowest rates of occurrence within the same issue.
- Among the reported cases of BVAS issues during the Presidential and National Assembly elections, UZABE showed an average turn-around time (i.e. time it takes to accredit a voter with the BVAS) at 3 mins across 76 percent of polling units observed. Comparably, this number improved during the Gubernatorial and State house of assembly elections to 3 mins across 86 percent of polling units observed. It is worth noting that our observers documented BVAS turn-around time issues like slow or unresponsive BVAS, authentication failure, low batteries, and the inability of some INEC officials to operate the BVAS were also recorded.
- Vote buying, as a recurring and significant impediment to different cycles of Nigeria’s electoral process, remained a contentious issue before and after the 2023 elections. Incident reports from UZABE indicate that there was a decline in reported cases of vote buying and voter inducement during the Presidential and National Assembly Elections compared to the second rounds of elections (i.e. the Gubernatorial and State Houses of Assembly elections). Overall, only 6 percent of total incident reports on voting observation recorded some form of vote buying or voter inducement during the Presidential and National Assembly Elections, with regions like the South-South (13 percent) recording the highest while the North-Central (4 percent) and South-East (4 percent) of the total incidents of vote buying recording the lowest. However, vote buying increased to 18 percent during the Gubernatorial and State House of Assembly elections.
- UZABE data from most polling stations visited indicated that across most polling stations, over 73 percent of security agencies were not armed during the Presidential elections; however, this increased during the Gubernatorial and State Houses of Assembly elections to 78 percent. Security agents consisting of the Nigerian Police Force, Civil Defence and other para military agencies constituted at least two (2) security personnel physically present in each



polling unit visited by our election observers.

- Our data from the 2023 Nigerian General elections showed that priority voting was accorded to the elderly, people living with disabilities (PWD) and pregnant women and over 96 percent of polling units were easily accessible, especially to wheelchairs. Over 96 percent of CODE observers also reported that most polling stations were accessible to pregnant women, the elderly and PWD during both the Presidential/National Assembly Elections and the Gubernatorial/State House of Assembly Elections.

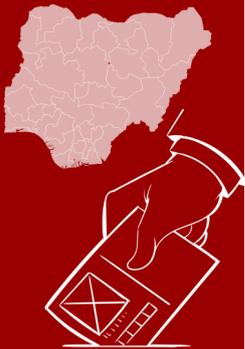
As an independent observer of the electoral process, CODE recommends a review of the processes of voter registration and collection of PVCs, as this significantly impacts the amount of PVC collected before the election. Most Nigerians would recount the challenges they faced in the PVC registration and collection process; thus, a uniformed database or a same day PVC collection and registration process should be encouraged. Voter turn-out during this election cycle indicates there is much to deduce from INEC data on voter registration and PVC collection. We at CODE recommend a constant audit of these datasets to ensure transparency and the presentation of information that is representative of Nigeria's electoral process. Also, the cost implications of conducting more than one election need to be reviewed. Nigeria can learn from other African countries who conduct elections in one-day while improving on security architecture towards having armed security personnel to deter electoral violence.

Finally, I applaud the Nigerian youth. They showed their commitment and preparedness to their constitutional and civic duties in this election cycle. The long-standing narrative that Nigerian youths do not take elections seriously has been punctured. But there is more to do; we must build on this success to strengthen not only our democracy but our nation.



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**Hamzat B. Lawal**  
*Founder, Connected Development*



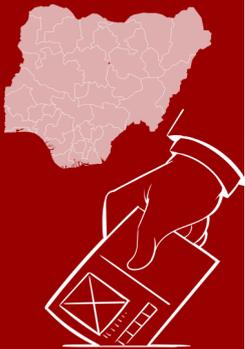
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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>CODE</b>	<i>Connected Development</i>
<b>BVAS</b>	<i>Bimodal Voters Accreditation System</i>
<b>CSO</b>	<i>Civil Society Organization</i>
<b>EO</b>	<i>Electoral Officer</i>
<b>FCT</b>	<i>Federal Capital Territory</i>
<b>IReV</b>	<i>INEC Result Viewer</i>
<b>LGA</b>	<i>Local Government Area</i>
<b>PVC</b>	<i>Permanent Voters Card</i>
<b>INEC</b>	<i>Independent National Electoral Commission</i>
<b>NGO</b>	<i>Non-Governmental Organizations</i>
<b>NSCDC</b>	<i>Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps</i>
<b>NYSC</b>	<i>National Youth Service Corps</i>
<b>PO</b>	<i>Presiding Officer</i>
<b>PU</b>	<i>Polling Unit</i>
<b>PWD</b>	<i>Persons With Disabilities</i>
<b>TVC</b>	<i>Temporary Voters Card</i>



## CODE MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Connected Development (CODE) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in 2012. The mission of CODE is to “empower marginalized communities in Africa.” CODE provides marginalized and vulnerable communities with resources to amplify their voices with independence and integrity while providing the communities with information that ushers social and economic progress. To enhance effective democratic governance and accountability, CODE creates platforms [mobile and web technologies] that close the feedback loop between citizens and the government.

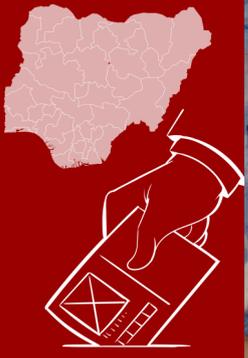
With her flagship community engagement tool, FollowTheMoney, CODE provides marginalized and vulnerable communities with much needed resources to amplify their voices with independence and integrity, while also providing these communities with information that ushers in social and economic progress.

By creating platforms (mobile and web technologies) aimed at closing the feedback loop between citizens and government, CODE strategically models feedback loops to enhance and promote effective democratic governance, accountability, transparency, and citizen engagement. With global expertise and reach, we focus on community outreach, influencing policies and practices, and knowledge mobilization. Our commitment to raising participatory capacity and community building, as well as observation and evaluation, helps marginalized communities create effective and sustainable programs/institutions even in the most challenging environments.

### ***Our objectives are to:***

- increase people’s access to information through whatever technological means they choose.
- increase and share innovative approaches to information exchange through experimentation, research, and technology.
- develop innovative platforms for coverage of social, environmental and governance issues.
- increase the adoption and implementation of international development laws and policies.

As part of her effort to promote transparent and credible elections in Nigeria while holding stakeholders accountable, CODE launched UZABE, an election intelligence tool, to identify gaps in Nigerian electoral processes. The aim of this web-based technology platform was to give citizens the opportunity to provide real-time situational reports on election processes in specific locations around the country. CODE’s deployment of UZABE as a geo-mapping technological tool during Nigeria’s 2023 elections leverages on practical experiences from previous elections in and outside Africa. It serves as a collaborative information platform aimed at improving election reporting and the quality of information, thus debunking misinformation and fake news during elections



# CODE ON ELECTORAL PROCESS AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

## *Electoral Process*

Nigeria's electoral process and procedures before the conduct of the 2023 General Elections had undergone significant changes that not only strengthened existing electoral institutions but also increased citizens' awareness of the existing process. The culmination of this process, which began in July 2021 when both houses of the National Assembly passed the bill that formed the foundations for the 2022 Nigeria Electoral Act, was geared towards improving the quality of Nigerian elections and entrenching a sustainable electoral process that ultimately ensures people driven recruitment of elective political leaders to consolidate Nigeria's democracy.

In this electoral cycle, one of the reforms that further bolstered citizens' confidence in the electoral process was the ability of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to review election results declared under questionable circumstances and determine the process for transmission of polling unit results to the INEC results viewing (IREV) portal as provided by the 2022 Nigeria Electoral Act. Also, electoral reforms were introduced to counter the effect of some unrealistic time frames and logistics issues that inhibited the early preparations for previous elections, as well as to guarantee the financial independence of INEC (e.g., releasing approved funds earlier). For instance, the timeframe for concluding party primaries and the submission of qualified candidate lists was extended to 180 days.

Additionally, electoral process reforms also addressed issues associated with proper accreditation of voters to tackle ghost voting and over-voting, which had remained a contentious issue in previous election cycles. The idea was to improve both the election preparation and the election management processes, moving toward a robust public partisanship dimension rather than partisan private interest.

## *Legal Framework Elections*

Both the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) and the 2022 Nigeria Electoral Act provide the legal framework for the conduct of elections in Nigeria. Section 153 of the 1999 Constitution provides for the creation of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and also empowers the commission to organize, supervise, and schedule all national and state elections. The constitution also charges the electoral commission with the responsibilities of registering, regulating, auditing the finances of all political parties, and set-



ting the rules and regulations for political parties' campaign activities. Voter registration, civic election education, general conduct during elections, maintenance of an updated national voter register, and delineation of constituencies also fall within the ambit of INEC's responsibilities, as provided for by the constitution.

Legally, Nigeria's electoral process was further strengthened with the passage of the Electoral Act in 2022, after President Buhari had initially withheld his assent on previous versions of the Electoral Act (2010 and 2016), citing issues concerning the sequence of elections, inconsistencies with versions of the bill, and conflicts with already existing laws. The 2022 Nigeria Electoral Act addresses the operationalization and methods for the conduct of elections and the usage of information and communication technology (ICT). The act codified the usage of electronic machines (i.e., the bimodal voters accreditation system, BVAS) for voter accreditation and transmission of polling unit results to the INEC Election Results Viewer (IREV), while also increasing the penalties for election-related offenses (see Sections 114-129, e.g., vote buying, unlawful possession of permanent voter cards (PVC), voting when not qualified, and dereliction of duties by election officers, party agents, security agencies, e.t.c.)

Election dispute resolution as provided for in both the 1999 Constitution (as amended), was further re-enforced in the 2022 Nigeria Electoral Act. The Court of Appeal, which has jurisdiction over Presidential elections, is also charged by the constitution and the Electoral Act with establishing electoral tribunals for National Assembly, Gubernatorial, and State House of Assembly elections.



## **PRE-ELECTION REPORT**

Elections in Nigeria have always been a critical moment for democratic progress over the years. With all its benefits, there is always a risk of pre- and post-election violence during every global election. As Nigerians elect political representatives and transition from one administration to the next, several burgeoning challenges existed before, during, and after this election cycle. With insecurity being a significant problem throughout sections of the country, corruption, religious intolerance, ethnic bigotry, lack of representation for women, young people, and persons with disabilities were highlighted by several stakeholders as other significant impediments to the 2023 General Elections. In the run-up to the 2023 General Elections, the monetary policy of naira redesign by the Central Bank, as part of her cashless policy, also led to the scarcity of Nigerian currency notes, thus impacting the purchasing power and accessibility of higher denominations of currencies. This development transitioned into protests against the Central Bank with commercial banks being targeted by protestors in states like Ogun, Edo, and Delta. The 2023 General Elections presented the opportunity for the government of Nigeria to showcase how progressive the country's electoral systems had evolved, as demonstrated by heightened interest in the outcomes of this election. Reflective of this was an increase of 11.3% of previous registered voters recorded by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

Before the February 25 and March 18 elections, Connected Development (CODE) organized and held several press briefings and meetings (see Appendix) with relevant election stakeholders, such as Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), international observers, the media and security agencies, to discuss the preparedness of the country for the general elections.

### **INEC Preparedness**

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) commenced full blown preparations for the election with the release of a timetable and schedule of activities in January 2022. INEC had announced that it had developed a work-plan for the conduct of the election that included voters' registration and sensitization, election operations training, and the conduct of the election proper. One key engagement in this election cycle was in January 2022, when INEC held engagements with various stakeholders, including political parties and CSO groups, on the need to expand voters' access to polling units.

On 25th February 2022, President Muhammadu Buhari signed the much-anticipated Nigerian Electoral Act into law. The Electoral Act portrayed the government's commitment to holding transparent and credible elections and further strengthening Nigeria's democratic process.

INEC collaborating with CSOs and other election stakeholders while leveraging on this success, applauded specific areas like the early release of election funds to the commission, early conduct of party primaries and submission of candidates' lists. For the first time in Nigeria's election cycle, ICT tools (e.g. BVAS for voter accreditation and the electronic transmission of results) had constitutional and procedural backing for implementation although with concerns from Nigerians with the modus operandi. Sections 47 and 50(2) of the Nigerian Electoral Act 2022 give legal backing to the use of smart card readers and any other electronic device that INEC deploys for the accreditation of voters. It also gave legal backing to the electronic transmission of results from the polling units as INEC now had the power to determine the manner(s) of transmission of results.

INEC had in 2022, also established an INEC result viewing portal (IReV) to provide citizens access to election results from polling units upon completion. In addition to this innovation, Section 62(2) empowers the commission to maintain a centralized electronic election register for e-collation.

### ***Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs) Distribution***

The INEC Chairman Mahmood Yakubu reiterated that the INEC voter register had a total of 93,469,008 voters but also that, 93.3 percent of registered voters had collected their PVCs while 6.7 percent did not. The INEC Chairman further revealed that the commission had added 56,872 polling units to increase the total number of polling units to 176,846; and that electoral officers would continue to collaborate with collation center agents and political parties for the 2023 election cycle. The Chairman also reiterated that 240 polling units had no voters citing reasons like voter transfer to other polling units. He also announced that ad-hoc staff to be deployed for the elections had been trained. He assured Nigerians that the commission will closely monitor the conduct of its staff and will sanction anyone who compromise the electoral process. Professor Mahmood Yakubu also indicated that backup technicians for the BVAS had also been deployed for the 2023 General Elections.

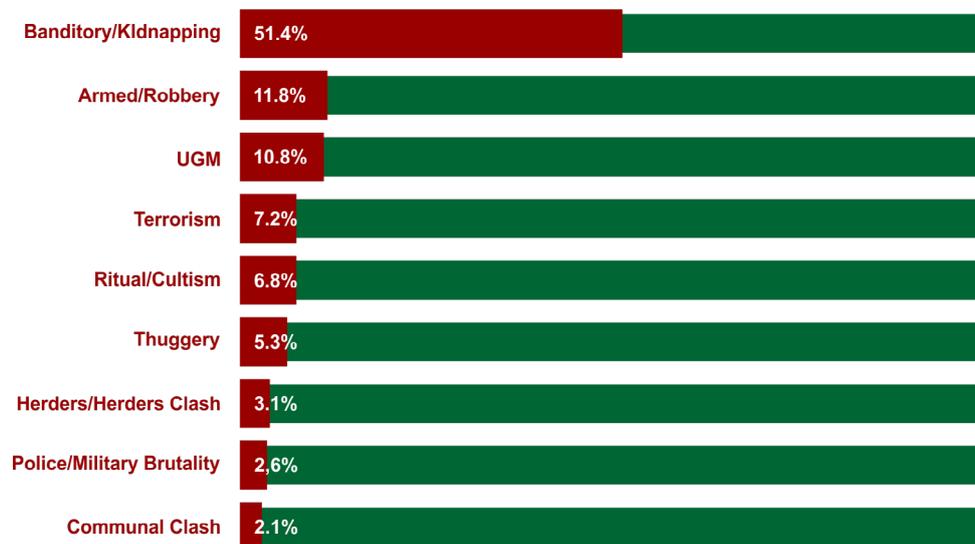
### ***Security Concerns and Threats to the Conduct of Election***

As the 2023 General Elections drew closer, the security situation across the country was a source of concern to major stakeholders due to the prevalence of violence and apprehension, which many believe would have a significant impact on the conduct of the elections across the country.

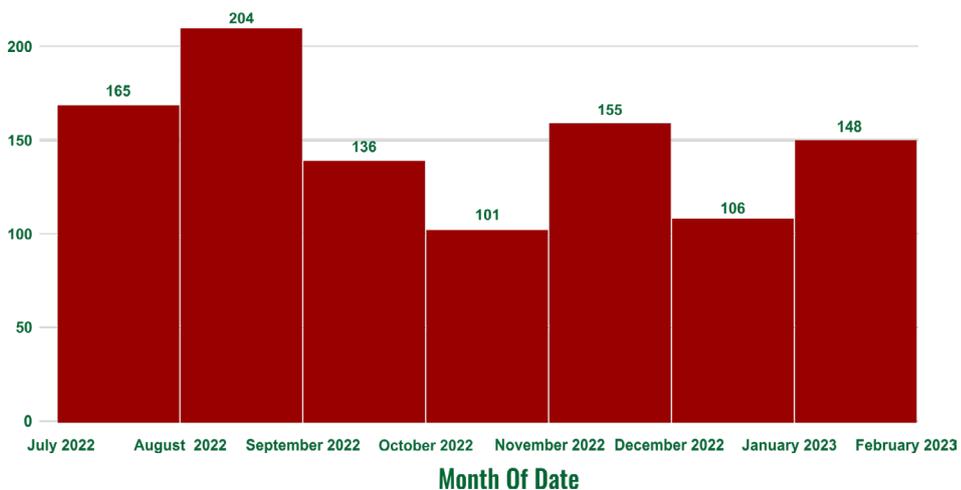
All through the pre-election period, CODE tracked insecurity and further showed that the incidence of insecurity and its challenges persisted across several locations in the country. Beyond insurgency, banditry, and kidnapping, the prevailing insecurity situation leading to the 2023

General election was exacerbated by a tense political atmosphere. In anticipation of this situation, CODE organized and presented its National Security Watch Project (NSWP) in June 2022 with the objective of observing and recording federation security breaches. Using this model and in providing analysis and context for security concerns leading to the 2023 general elections, CODE issued Monthly Security Dossiers (MSD) geared towards a macro-analysis of these security breaches. The July (2022) - January (2023) report indicated that across Nigeria, cases of security breaches spiked in August (2022), November (2022), and January (2023) before the conduct of the elections.

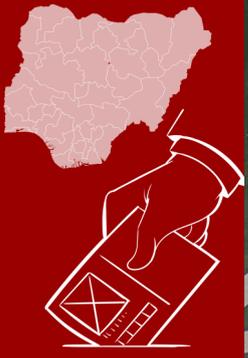
### 8 Month Projection Of Crime Towards The Election



### Disaggregation Of Incidents



Among these reported incidents included attacks on some INEC offices across the country, which further provided logistical challenges towards the conduct of the 2023 general elections.



## **CODE DEPLOYMENT OF ELECTION OBSERVERS.**

As Africa's largest democracies, the process and conduct of the general elections were expectedly high for various reasons, which included the 2022 Electoral Act, INEC's regulations and guidelines for the conduct of the 2023 elections, a review of operational guidelines, (i.e., voter enrollment device (BVAS) and the INEC Results Viewing (IREV) portal), and the outcome of keenly contested political parties primary elections. As these tools were quite new, INEC was charged with the daunting task of making sure that they satisfied the electoral needs of the citizenry and political parties. CODE, leveraging on this partnered with USHAHIDI, a global non-profit technology enterprise specializing in creating comprehensive tools and services that empower individuals to devise solutions and engage communities. This partnership has utilized the USHAHIDI platform since 2013 to oversee elections in both Kenya and Nigeria. The UZABE election real time incidence monitoring tool was hosted on the USHAHIDI platform. This open-source software application employs user-generated reports to compile and visualize data on a map during the 2023 General elections. This was to monitor and provide real-time updates on the electoral process. As such, CODE made calls for citizens to participate in the 2023 election as observers by registering to use its tools and platform (i.e., UZABE) to provide real time updates. From this, CODE trained 20,000 volunteer election observers across the 774 Local Government Areas (LGA) of Nigeria for this 2023 election cycle. As part of these volunteers, INEC approved and certified 7000 CODE volunteers to provide further specific observations during this election cycle. All reports were further subjected to UZABE's three-step verification process for fact checking.

### **CODE Launching of Election Situation Room**

Alongside the deployment of UZABE, Connected Development (CODE) launched an open awareness Situation Room in early February where technical support and verification of incident reports were monitored, analyzed, and updated on the interactive website. A total of 150 people from partnering CSOs, CODE staff, media outfits, and technical support experts constituted the Situation Room. With observers gathering real-time reports of the entire election day process, from the arrival of electoral officers and the set-up of the polling units to the sorting, counting, announcement, posting of the official results on the INEC form EC8A, and subsequent uploading of the polling unit results to IRev; the observers were to send periodic reports to the UZABE election intelligence tool platform and the UZABE map tool. CODE's Situation Room was located in Ladi Kwali Hall of the Sheraton hotel in Abuja, where a three (3) step verification process was carried out to analyze, process, and verify real-time reports. This deployment enabled CODE to provide the most timely and accurate information on the election process across polling units in Nigeria.



# ***THE NIGERIA'S 2023 ELECTION DAY PRESIDENTIAL AND GUBERNATORIAL REPORT***

## ***Election Day Observation***

The Connected Development Election Day Situation Room setup was divided into a technical team, an analyst team, and a design/communication team. The technical team was made up of units of technical observers who were divided into the six (6) geopolitical zones in Nigeria. The team was in charge of collecting and reporting observations on the UZABE observation and reporting platforms.

## ***The Electoral Intelligence Tool***

The Electoral Intelligence platform is one of Connected Development's observation platforms. This platform collects structured data and presents it in the form of visualization on CODE's website. This analyzed data assesses the election day process in general according to a verified survey from CODE's on-field observers for the 2023 Elections. This report also assesses the role of each key stakeholder and their performance in the electoral process. The report was classified into the following format: INEC Officials, the Duties of the officials at the polls, the use and deployment of BVAS during the elections, Voting Observation as well as Security issues during the elections.

This section covers the reports that were fact-checked and published on the Election intelligence tool. The following is the breakdown of our observers by geopolitical zones on our UZABE Electoral intelligence tool:



**Presidential and National Assembly Elections**

Geopolitical Zone	Number of observers	Number of LGAs
North Central	1749	135
North East	1136	71
North West	1325	115
South East	628	72
South South	701	103
South West	460	70

**Gubernatorial and State House of Assembly Elections**

Geopolitical Zone	Number of observers	Number of LGAs
North Central	1215	84
North East	1045	60
North West	890	90
South East	570	50
South South	725	84
South West	395	98



### Voter's Accreditation

Voter accreditation is an essential process in Nigeria that verifies the eligibility of individuals to vote in elections. It is aimed at ensuring that only eligible voters that are registered to vote in a particular polling unit can participate in an election, thereby maintaining the integrity and fairness of elections. It is important to note that according to the INEC 2022 Electoral Manual, fingerprint or facial authentication is required for identification using the Bimodal Voters Accreditation System (BVAS) before voting. Fingerprint verification can also only be attempted a maximum of three times before facial authentication is initiated.

In accordance with electoral guidelines, CODE's Observers reported that the BVAS was deployed in the 2023 Nigerian elections in about 99% of polling units observed across the country in both Presidential and Gubernatorial elections.

According to data collected using the UZABE election intelligence tool, the BVAS was effective in both the Presidential and Gubernatorial elections, but with a few challenges. Our data shows that these challenges ranged from slow response, malfunctioning, the inability of polling clerks to operate the BVAS, consistent failure in fingerprint authentication, and low battery life of the BVAS device. Based on our field observers report, during the Presidential election, the average turn-around time for the BVAS machine to authenticate a voter was 3 minutes, as witnessed in 76% of the polling units observed. For the gubernatorial elections, the report shows that the BVAS machine had a turnaround time of 3 minutes in all observations, with 86% of the polling units reporting this as their turnaround time.

### BVAS Turn Around Time



This suggests that there was an overall improvement in the performance and handling of the BVAS machine during the gubernatorial elections compared to the presidential election.

The improved turnaround time in the gubernatorial elections could be attributed to various factors, such as better optimization of the machine’s processes, increased familiarity, and experience with the BVAS machine by polling clerks, or potential upgrades or enhancements made to the machine itself. These findings suggest that there was an improvement in the efficiency of the BVAS machine during the gubernatorial elections compared to the presidential elections. This indicates that the system was able to authenticate voters more quickly, potentially leading to smoother voting processes and reduced waiting times for voters.

BVAS deployed during elections, according to the stipulations of INEC’s Regulations and guidelines, require voters to present their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) for positive identification by the poll clerk, along with undergoing the biometric verification process. According to the reports, 7% of our observers across all regions of the country indicated that some voters were accredited without presenting their PVCs in both the Presidential and Gubernatorial elections. These reports indicate failure to utilize PVCs for voting accreditation occurred at an average frequency of 5 voters in these polling units where this was observed. While these numbers are low, the development suggests a deviation from the standard INEC’s accreditation procedure.

## Voters Accredited To Vote Without PVC

### Presidential Election

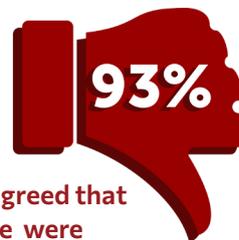


Disagreed that there were accredited voters without PVC



Agreed that there were accredited voters without PVC

### Gubernatorial Election



Disagreed that there were accredited voters without PVC

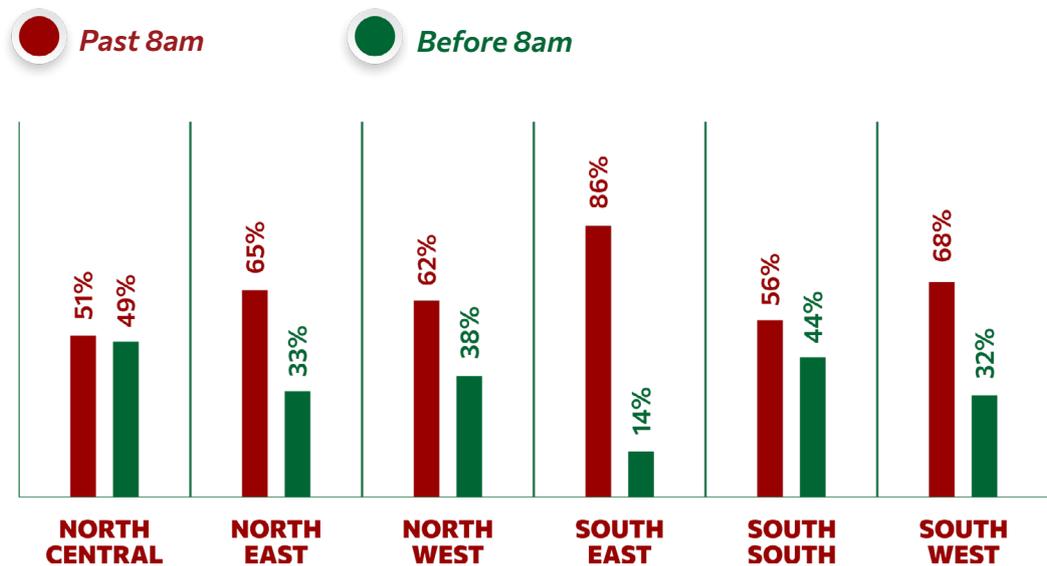


Agreed that there were accredited voters without PVC

### INEC Officials at the Polls

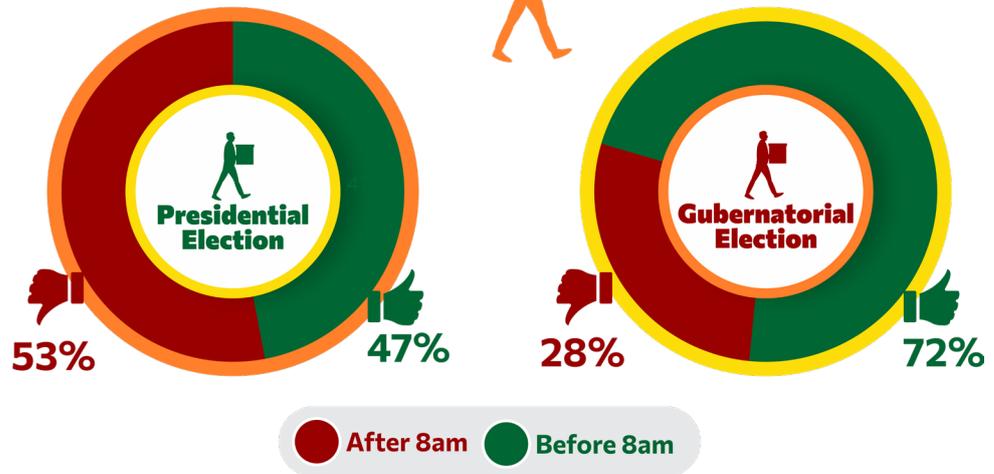
Connected Development [CODE] observers reported that from 564 observed LGAs in Nigeria, only 47% had INEC poll officials arrive at their assigned polling units before 8 a.m while 53% of these officials arrived later than 8 a.m resulting in the late opening of many polling units during the Presidential election in many places across the country. As at 10am, 30.4% of polling units observed across the country had yet to see INEC poll officials arrive at the polling units. From our observation, the South-East region had the most prevalent cases of the late arrival of INEC poll officials, with only 14% of polling units observed having INEC poll officials arrive before 8 a.m (i.e. 86% late arrival), and 62.71% of observed polling units yet to see INEC officials at 10 a.m

### INEC Poll Officials Arrival At Polling Unit (Presidential Election)



During the Gubernatorial elections, 72% of INEC poll officials arrived at their assigned polling units before 8 a.m., while less than 7% of Polling units were yet see INEC poll unit officials arrive after 10 a.m. This represents an improvement compared to the Presidential election, where there were prevalent cases of late arrivals of INEC polling officials. This suggests that a majority of the polling units during the Gubernatorial and State Assembly election had a good start, thus enabling them to commence the voting process promptly. However, it is important to address the perennial challenge of late arrival of INEC poll officials, as it can potentially lead to delays, voter frustration, and a negative impact (in some cases, civil unrest and disobedience) on the overall efficiency of the electoral process. It is necessary to investigate the reasons behind the late arrivals and implement measures to improve the punctuality of officials in future elections.

## INEC Polling Units Officials Arrival



It is important for INEC polling officials, precisely the Presiding Officer to address voters before the commencement of accreditation and voting, to explain the voting processes to voters as it empowers them to participate confidently and effectively. By providing clear instructions and a step-by-step account, voters understand how to present for identification, authentication, receive a ballot, and cast their vote. This enhances transparency, reduces confusion, and ensures voters feel informed and prepared, ultimately promoting their active engagement in the democratic process. According to our reports, both the Presidential and Gubernatorial elections saw polling officials address voters on how to authenticate, receive a ballot, and cast their vote appropriately before the opening of polls. According to our observation, there was an increase in the percentage of polling officials who discharged their responsibilities effectively during the Gubernatorial election compared to the Presidential election. Specifically, this rose from 95% in the Presidential election to 97% in the Gubernatorial election. This improvement could potentially be attributed to the officials arriving at the polling stations on time giving them adequate time to plan, set-up and follow stipulated electoral poll procedures.

On Election Day, accreditation and voting are expected to commence at 8:30 a.m. and close at 2:30 p.m., or as may be determined by the Commission, provided that all voters already on the queue by 2:30 p.m should be accredited and allowed to vote. CODE observed the average time of close of polls and sorting across the country during the 2023 general elections. The figure below gives a breakdown of the time for sorting for both the Presidential and Gubernatorial

elections. During the Presidential election, sorting and counting process had not begun at 4:30 p.m in 25% of polling units observed. At 5:30 p.m, 11% of polling units observed were still voting, which continued until midnight in several polling stations across the country. During the gubernatorial election, there was evidence of timely (as at 2:30pm) sorting and counting of votes across the observed polling stations. This contrast could have possibly been due to the late arrival of polling officials during the Presidential election or even the voter turnout in the Gubernatorial elections.

Public announcement of results at polling units is an essential component of the electoral process, promoting transparency, accountability, and public trust. It involves the announcement of the voting results to the public present at the polling unit immediately after the counting process is completed. This announcement typically includes the number of votes garnered by each candidate or party. According to the reports from our observers, there was a difference in the announcement of results at polling units between the Presidential and Gubernatorial elections. During the Presidential election, 94% of the observed polling units announced the results at the polling units after the sorting and counting process was concluded. However, in the Gubernatorial elections, there was a 100% announcement of results in the observed polling units. The timely close of the polls likely played a role in the 100% announcement of results during the gubernatorial elections. When the polls close on time, it allows for efficient sorting, counting, and verification of the ballots. This, in turn, enables the prompt announcement of results at the polling units.

It is essential for INEC officials to arrive early at the polling units on election day. Early arrival allows for proper setup and preparation before the commencement of the voting process. INEC officials have several roles to play before voting begins, e.g., set up and arrangement of the polling unit, testing, and verification of the devices, explaining the voting procedure to voters, etc.

### **1.3 Security-Related Issues**

CODE's election observers witnessed and reported a variety of high-tension situations during the Presidential/National Assembly and Gubernatorial/State House of Assembly elections. The most common of these were voter intimidation and general acts of violence designed to induce voter behavior at the polls. Other kinds of instances recorded by CODE observers included: general community unrest, shooting, thuggery, police brutality, and ballot snatching. These incidents marred elections in the polling units where they were witnessed.

According to the reports from our observers and in line with operational procedures for security agencies, there were security personnel present in most polling units during both Presidential and Gubernatorial elections in Nigeria. Our reports indicate that the average number of security personnel was 2 per polling unit during both elections. While procedural guidelines indicate that security personnel at polling units should not be armed, our data indicate that Presidential elections witnessed a 73% unarmed security personnel compliance rate across polling units observed; While this improved during the Gubernatorial elections to 78% across polling units observed.



## Armed Security Personnel At Polling Unit

### Presidential Election



### Gubernatorial Election



We also observed a significant increase in the partisan nature of security personnel present during elections, from 17% of Polling units observed that witnessed partisan security personnel at the Presidential elections, increase to 25% of polling units observed during the Gubernatorial elections.

Observations also indicate that in about 71% of the polling stations visited, security personnel were reported to be civil. However, this means that in 29% of the polling units visited during the Presidential elections, security personnel were reported to be uncivil or did not display appropriate behavior or professional conduct. During the Gubernatorial elections, observers at the polling units reported that security personnel were civil in about 75% of the polling stations visited. Uncivil behavior from security personnel can potentially create an intimidating or hostile environment for voters and undermine the integrity of the electoral process.

### 1.4 Voting Observations

Our records show that most polling stations were in full view of the public and located in neutral places (i.e., open spaces and accessible to every voter; see Sections 7 a and b of the INEC Rules



and Guidelines for the Conduct of the 2022 Election), both during the Presidential and Gubernatorial elections. According to these guidelines, the Presiding Officer (PO) is expected to ensure that the election environment can easily be accessed by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) by making sure that accreditation desks, the ballot box, and voting cubicles are placed on level ground for easy accessibility of the Polling Unit by PWDs especially those on wheelchairs as well as those with low mobility.

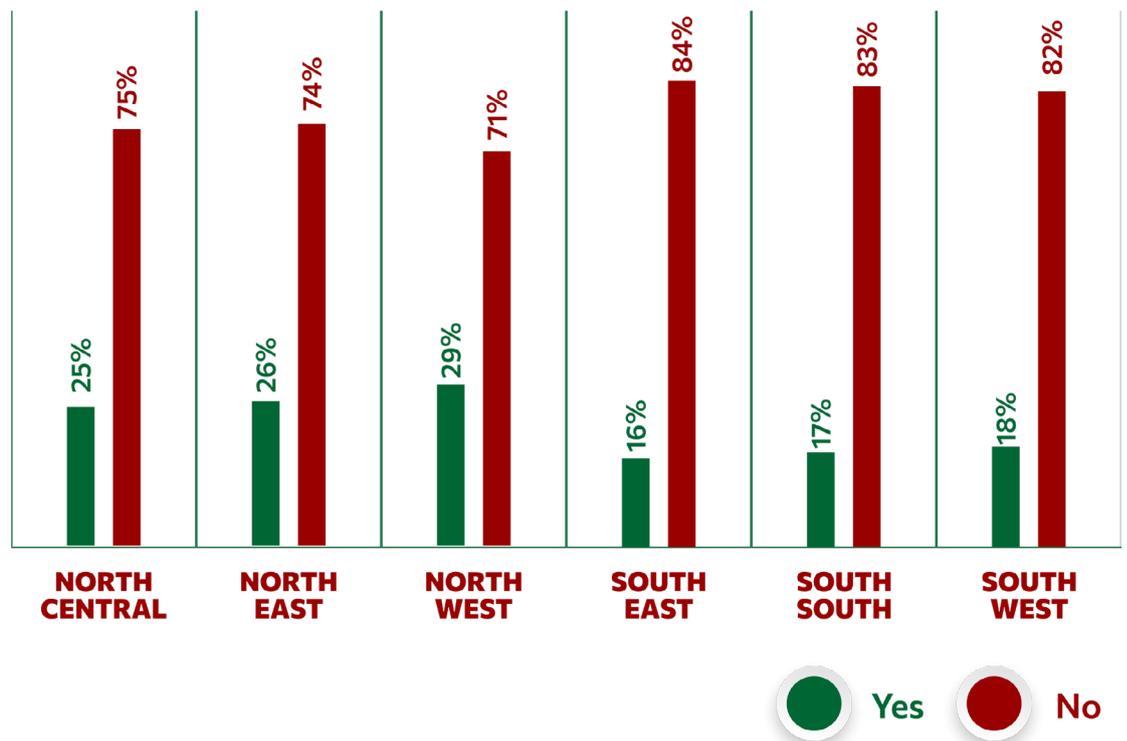
About 96% of CODE's observers reported that polling units were accessible for PWDs, pregnant women, and the elderly. Data shows that only 4% of observers reported that the Polling Units were inaccessible for this special category. This was the case for both the Presidential and Gubernatorial elections. Also remarkable was the fact that 96% of Polling units observed ensured priority voting to PWDs, pregnant women, and the elderly in the Presidential election, while 93% reported the same at the Gubernatorial polls

### Accessibility Of PU TO PWD, The Elderly And Pregnant Women



CODE observers reported the omission of voter names from the voter register across polling units observed. 23% of our observers indicated cases of omissions of names from the official voter register in the polling units covered, while 77% indicated there were no cases of omissions of names from the official voter register during the Presidential elections. However, there was an improvement during the Gubernatorial elections, as only 17% of our observers reported cases of omission of voter names from the voter register. During the Presidential elections, such cases of omissions were predominant in some states in the North West and North East regions where 29% and 26% of our observers recorded such cases respectively, while the South East and South South recorded the lowest percentage of such reports at 16% and 17% respectively.

### Pollin Units That Witnessed Cases Of Omission Of Voters Name From Voter Register During The Presidential Elections



According to reports, cases of vote buying during the Presidential elections were reported in about 6% across polling units observed, however, there was a significant increase of vote buying during the Gubernatorial elections, as 18% of polling stations indicated that vote buying was observed at their polling units.

# Vote Buying Observed



Presidential Election



Gubernatorial Election

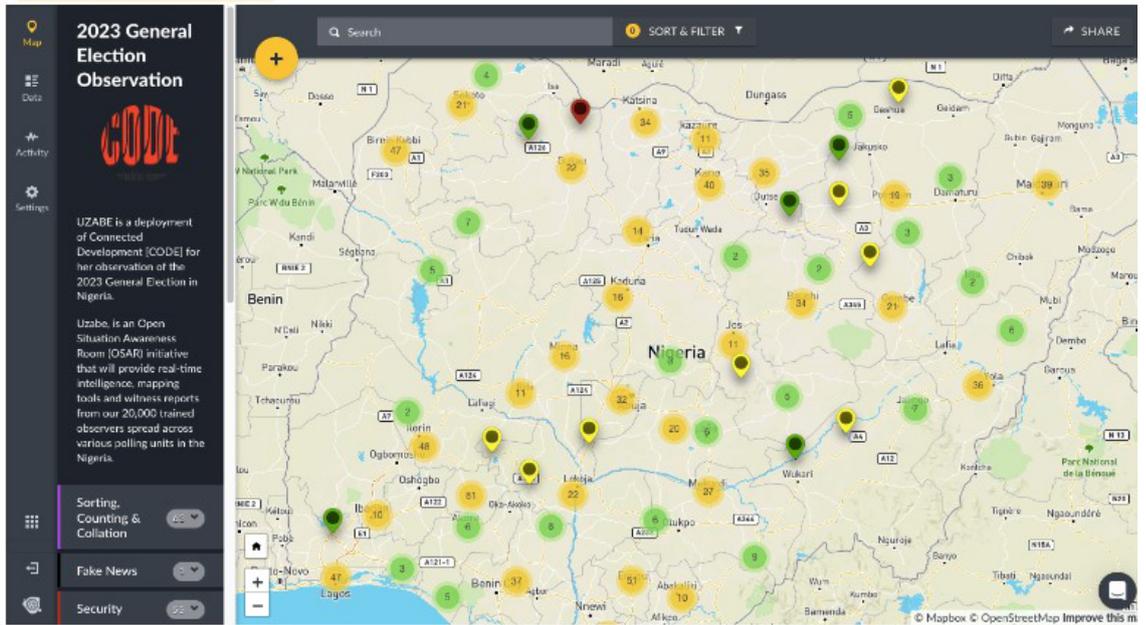


The screenshot displays the Uzabe website interface for monitoring the election process. Key features include:

- CODE** logo and URL: [code.inec.gov.ng](http://code.inec.gov.ng)
- Navigation menu: Home, About Us, UZABE Maps, UZABE Intelligence Tool, Contact.
- Summary statistics:
  - 5,999 No of Observers
  - 564 Total LGA observed
  - 73% LGA coverage
- Filtering options: Geopolitical Zone (All), State (All), L.G.A (All).
- Map of Nigeria showing polling units (PU) in neutral places, color-coded by status (No/Yes).
- Summary bar for 'PU in a Neutral Place?': 8% No, 92% Yes.
- Left sidebar menu:
  - Morning Processes
  - Afternoon Processes
  - INEC officials
  - Duties of INEC officials
  - BVAS & Security issues
  - Voting Observations

The granular details of all the reports can be viewed on our website.  
[www.uzabe.org](http://www.uzabe.org)

# INCIDENCE REPORT MAP ON UZABE



This section covers incidence reports that were fact-checked and published on the UZABE Real time incidence map. The following are the highlights of the analysis that were published on the UZABE reporting platform. Further details of these incident reports can be viewed on our web-sites (see here Presidential and Gubernatorial Reports). We had different sections reported on the platform which includes: Polling station issues, Security issues, Positive events, Sorting, Counting and Collation, Ballot issues and Twitter opinion.

The major classification under Polling station issues includes: Low voter turn-out, Vote buying, wrong or inadequate voting materials, BVAS issues, no elections, and canceled elections amongst many other issues.

The major classifications under Security include limited security personnel, gunshots, civil unrest, injury, intimidation or harassment, mobilization toward violence, and vandalism.

The major classifications under Positive events include INEC official arrival to polling units, smooth accreditation and voting, agents and observers present, and priority voting witnessed are among the many positive events that were reported on the UZABE platform. The major classifications under Ballot issues include Ballot Box Stuffing, Spoilt Ballot Box Not Preserved, Tampering with Ballot Box, Ballot Transport Issues, Ballot Boxes Destroyed, Ballot Boxes Hijacked, Counting Disrupted, Tendered Ballot and Unsigned Ballots.



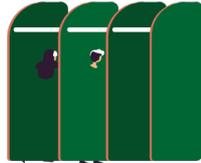
# Presidential Election Incidence Report On Uzabe



BALLOT ISSUES  
**0.65%**



SECURITY ISSUES  
**4.4%**



POLLING STATION ISSUES  
**48.9%**



POSITIVE EVENTS  
**28.1%**

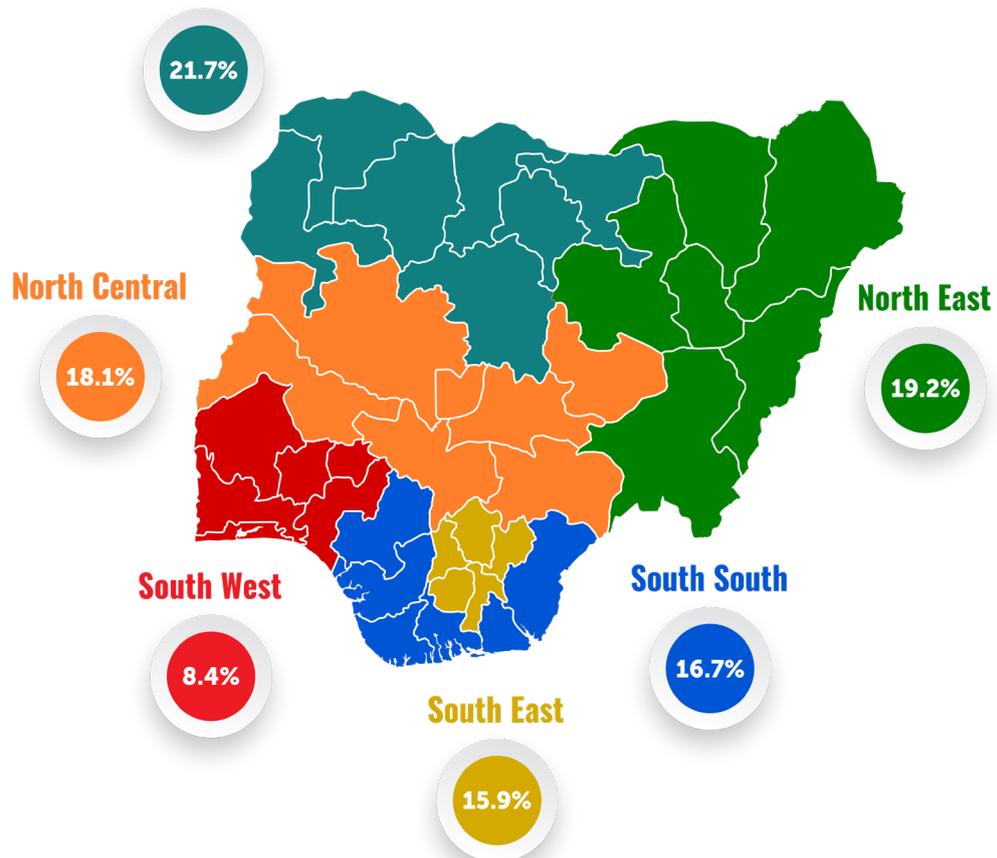


SORTING AND COUNTING  
**4.9%**



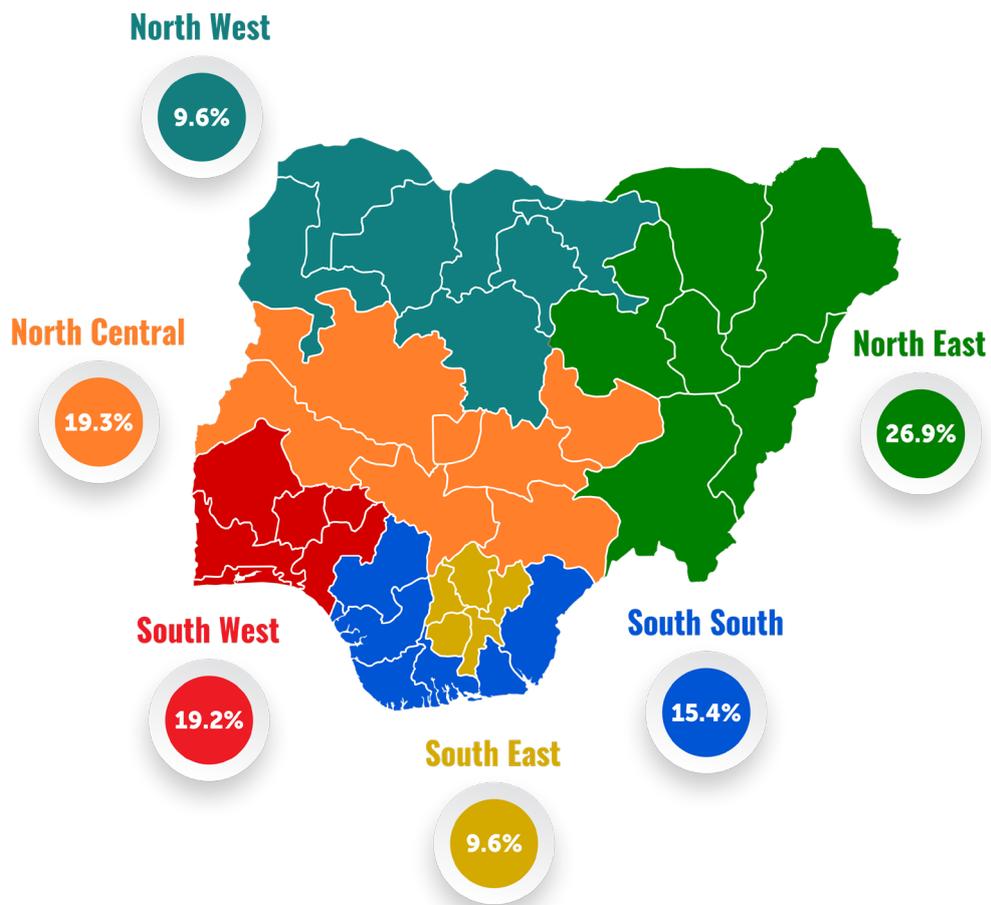
TWITTER OPINIONS  
**13.1%**

*Polling station issues has the highest publishing on UZABE with the following breakdown by geopolitical zones*



From the UZABE incidence report map, we observed that the Northwest had the highest reported cases of polling station issues, even though every region also recorded polling station issues. The major classifications under polling station issues include BVAS issues, voters protesting, wrong or inadequate voting materials, voting suspended, late polling station opening, and partisan polling officials amongst others.

*Security reports has the following breakdown by geopolitical zones:*



The major classifications under security include: limited security personnel, gunshots, civil unrest, injury, intimidation or harassment, and police arrest amongst others.



# Gubernatorial Election Incidence Report On Uzabe

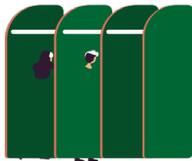
The following are the highlights of the analysis that were verified and published on the UZABE platform for the gubernatorial elections. The three major incidents reported include security issues, polling station issues, and positive events.



**BALLOT ISSUES**  
**0.7%**



**SECURITY ISSUES**  
**5.2%**



**POLLING STATION ISSUES**  
**29.5%**



**POSITIVE EVENTS**  
**48.0%**

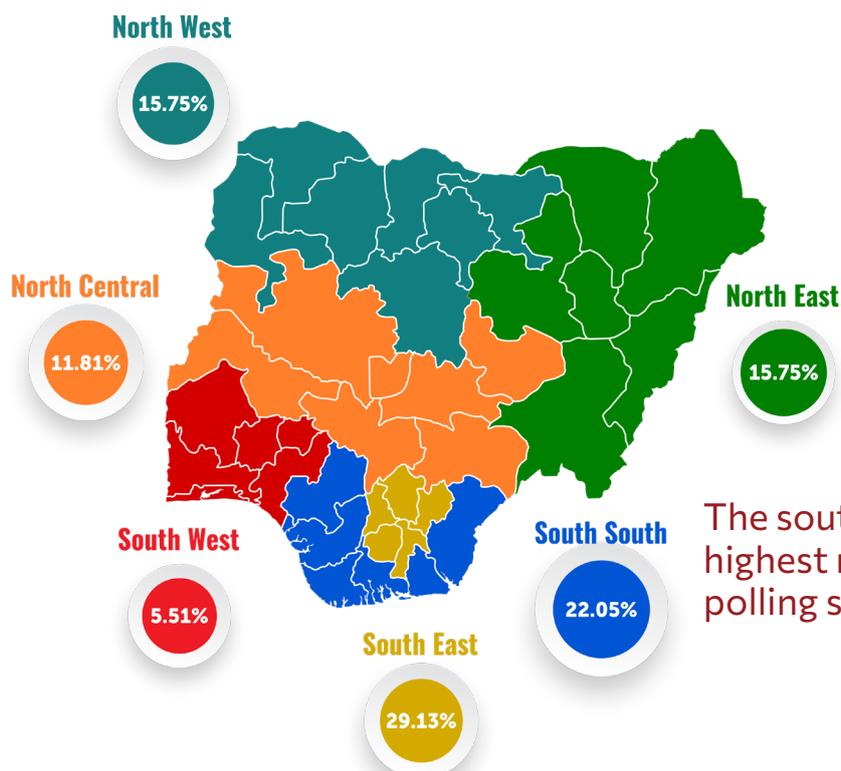


**SORTING AND COUNTING**  
**14.7%**



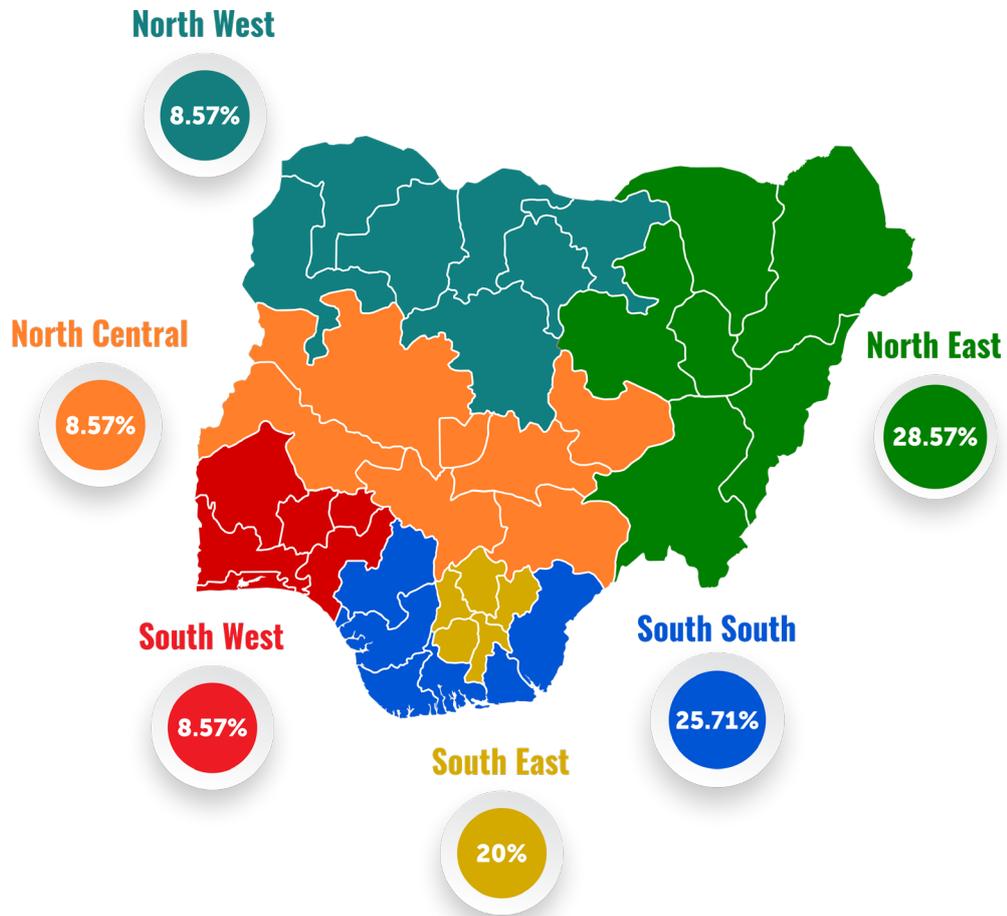
**TWITTER OPINIONS**  
**1.9%**

The polling station issues has the following breakdown by geopolitical zones:

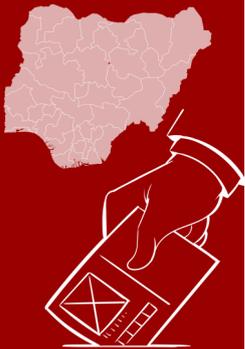


The southeast has the highest reported case of polling station issues.

Security report has the third highest publishing on UZABE incidence map in the following breakdown by geopolitical zones:



We see that the Northeast had the highest reported cases of security issues even though every region faced security issues.





## POST ELECTION REPORT

Nigeria's 2023 election accounts for the highest record for voter registration across the seven general election cycles. With total voter registration of 93.47 million, voter registration before the 2023 elections had surpassed previous election cycles, with over 68 million registered voters in the 2015 elections and over 84 million in the 2019 elections. However, voter turnout for the 2023 election was poor compared to previous election cycles. At a 26.72 percent voter turnout rate (estimated 24.9 million voters), the 2023 election represents a significant decline from the 2019 election at 8 percent. The aftermath of the elections has been marred by some forms of religious, ethnic division and a significant number of inconclusive elections (i.e., 5 senatorial districts, 31 federal, and 58 state assembly elections). While some of these have been occasioned by political statements, others have been the result of feelings of discontent with INEC's response to some of the highlighted challenges witnessed during the conduct of the 2023 elections in some states.

CODE's deployment of volunteer election observers provided a culmination of 12,889 verified reports cutting across the 774 local governments, wherein reports cover both positive and negative aspects of Nigeria's electoral process (e.g., the early arrival of INEC officials, failed BVAS authentication, polling stations, unarmed security personnel, and provision for the elderly as well as people living with disabilities (PWDs)).

Recognizing the challenges posed by such post-election narratives as well as divisions along ethnic and religious lines and the traction such narratives could gain in both physical and on social media spaces, CODE organized and hosted a roundtable with young religious and industry leaders that focused on the need to foster peace and tolerance for nation-building. The event aimed at providing a forum for further discussions across ethnic and religious lines beyond the outcomes of the 2023 elections and toward those "uncomfortable" conversations that Nigerians need to have in order to ensure nation-building.

The event identified the challenges of political leadership deficits and economic inequalities, which are constant harbingers of ethnic and religious division in Nigeria. Participants indicated that elections and their outcomes only make such issues more pronounced. Other issues identified during the discourse include

- The need for constant and robust discussions across ethnic and religious lines to enable an outlet for grievances and an opportunity to develop national cohesion.
- Strategies and models to ensure social equity and shared prosperity need constant exploration as this promotes equal access to opportunities and justice in a country as diverse as Nigeria
- Constant respect and understanding of existing levels of division are important to promote tolerance.
- Statements from religious and political leaders could be devoid of personal inclinations and views but focus on general issues which affect all irrespective of religious or ethnic dogmas.



## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

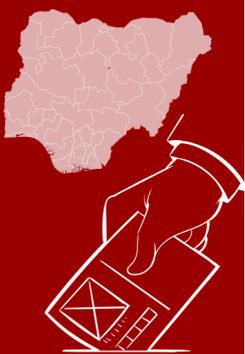
Nigeria's 2023 elections marked a genuine celebration of youth participation in Africa's most populous country and a key member of global democracies and the community of nations. As a consequence, previously held negative notions of youths' abysmal interest and participation in elections are now being discarded as Nigerian youths rose up to their civic rights in the 2023 election cycle. Nigerian youths played a historic role both in the build-up and the general conduct of the 2023 elections. According to INEC, 37,060,399 registered voters, representing 39.65 percent, were youth between the ages of 18 and 34. This demonstrated a significant awareness of their civic duties. Nigerian youths added to the over 35 percent (i.e., over 33 million middle-aged persons (35-49 years) and 18.94 percent (i.e., over 17 million) 50-69 years registered voters represented a significant voting block for this and future election cycles. This was made possible by the provisions of the Electoral Act 2022 and the INEC 2022 regulations and guidelines for conduct of elections, which introduced election technology that promised a transparent election process. The late opening of polls across the country tainted the process, as it showed INEC's operational failure to handle her logistics timely and efficiently. This saw many Polling units vote till late, and past midnight, in sharp contrast to international best practice, with no provisions for alternative power supply across the affected polling units, security for the INEC adhoc staff and voters, and had many voters disenfranchised, especially pregnant women, elderly people and people living with disability who could not stay to vote under such conditions. The introduction of the BVAS that performed optimally across most of the Polling Units where it was deployed proved to be a game changer in the electronic accreditation process, as it effectively eliminated voter accreditation fraud. However, the INEC Result Viewing Portal (iREV) deployed to enhance the transparency of election results and result management, though it delivered in near real time, in the upload of polling unit results of all the other four elections, it failed in the Presidential election, an election majority of voters believe is the most important, as polling units results were severely delayed, and mostly not uploaded on the iREV at the time when the collation was concluded and a winner declared and returned elected. This situation was worsened by INEC's inability to timely and effectively communicate to Nigerians the exact reasons why the iREV failed in the Presidential election. This affected the citizens' trust and goodwill that INEC enjoyed before the election, as many voters, especially young Nigerians have since after the 2023 general election, expressed their lack of confidence in INEC and her leadership, and Nigeria's electoral process.

The following are CODE's recommendations on Nigeria's electoral processes

- 1. Appointment of Resident Electoral Commissioners (RECs);** A review of the process and selection of Resident Electoral Commissioners (REC) is paramount in our electoral process.

The current system compromises the independence of INEC across the States as RECs are mostly nominated by political leaders from the ruling political party, and as such, exerts influence over the RECs, in the States where they head INEC. This current system requires further clarity as RECs should be appointed based on merit, rather than political patronage. We recommend that the 2008 Justice Uwise committee report (page 126) in this regard be considered, to ensure appointment of experienced, passionate and apolitical Resident Electoral Commissioners with capacity and integrity, as the performance of many of the RECs in this 2023 general election were abysmal.

- 2. Voter Registration;** The bureaucratic two-step process of voter registration which entails an instant issuance of a temporary voters card, that does not in itself make an eligible citizen qualified to vote, followed by a tedious process of collecting a Permanent Voters card, was a major reason why many Nigerians who registered to vote, could not vote. This system ultimately disenfranchises a lot of Nigerians, as the current process is complex and complicated. INEC should review this process to allow an easy one-off registration and instant generation of a voter card that captures National Identification numbers, and other existing National valid Identity card numbers, to deepen the voters card authenticity. Registration to vote should be simplified.
- 3. Election Sequence;** Two separate election days for both the Presidential/National Assembly election and Gubernatorial/State Assembly election process is overly cumbersome and expensive for both the country and the citizenry. For citizens, the extended election days have the potential of stretching patience, interest and resources. It has a cost implication on citizens who usually travel to their place of registration to vote, and as such this adds to reasons behind voter apathy especially in the Governorship and State Assembly elections as witnessed in this 2023 general elections. For the electoral commission, an extended election impacts significantly on resources and logistics towards the conduct of elections. CODE recommends that conducting all 5 elections in a day will suffice, as has been shown to work in countries like Kenya. Electoral Stakeholders will invest and commit more to engage in increased campaigns and sensitization to create awareness to promote this, while INEC scales up her efforts in ensuring smooth logistics deployment.
- 4. Voting Hours;** Nigeria presently has about 93.4m registered voters. We observed that INEC's prescribed 6 hours voting period is not sufficient for all registered voters to cast their vote. We acknowledge INEC guidelines that allow any voter on the queue before 2:30pm to vote even if it is past this close of voting time, however we observed that the 6 hours voting duration also cause a lot of tension at polling units as we observed that voters came out within the same time range on the election morning, as they fear polls close early. This situation puts pressure on the poll clerks, and denies citizens who may be on essential duties the leisure of time to vote. Also, given the perennial logistic/deployment challenges witnessed in the last 3 general elections in Nigeria, which leads to late opening of polls, we recommend that INEC considers extending voting hours to at least 8 hours. This will ensure that every willing voter gets to vote on election day.



5. **Electoral technology;** INEC should be transparent and specific about the procurements, operations and processes of the various hardware and software systems and devices used in an election. CODE observed that there was a lot of secrecy and limited information made available to the public around the details, models, functionality and specifications of INEC technology deployments (BVAS device, the iREV platform, etc) ahead of the 2023 general election. Stakeholders were simply assured and made to believe in INEC's preparedness in her deployment of election technology, without backing it up with all the necessary information and details, for public scrutiny and assessment. Also, there should be adequate spacing between the mock accreditation and proper election day accreditation, to allow for solutions on challenges discovered in the former to be properly integrated and factored into the latter.
6. **Early voting for election workers;** Election workers; INEC staff, election observers, security personnel and media personnel, do not get to vote on Election day as they mostly work in areas far from their polling units where they are registered to vote. It is on record that INEC had over 1.5m adhoc staff in the 2023 general election, while over 400,000 security personnel were deployed for election duty, and about 144,000 local accredited election observers. These numbers alone surpass the margin of lead that the winner of the Presidential election won with. This explains how significant the votes of election workers can be in our election. We recommend that INEC structures an early voting pattern for election workers, that will enable them to cast their vote before election day, and have the votes counted alongside other votes on election day.
7. **New Polling Units;** INEC in the lead up to the election created 56,872 polling units, to give voters the opportunity to migrate to polling units nearer to them, to reduce over populated polling units, and to allow ease of voting across the country. However, this proved to be ineffective as very few citizens changed their polling units, thereby leaving many existing polling units overcrowded, and the ones that INEC allocated to the new polling units had a difficult time locating their polling unit on election day. This also proved to have put an unnecessary cost on the election, as many of these new polling units with very few voters each had four security personnel, at least four INEC adhoc staff, a BVAS and every other election material and personnel deployed, even when there were barely any voters to be attended to in these polling units. INEC should start early to sensitize citizens about these new polling units ahead of the next elections, so that these new polling units will serve the purpose for which they were created, which top on the list is the challenge of overcrowding of some existing polling units.
8. **Security;** Presence of armed security personnel have become a necessity, as issues of electoral violence were seen to be on the rise in the 2023 General Election. The 2023 general election demonstrated that the mere presence of unarmed security personnel during elections did not significantly deter violence. The Inter Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) led by the Nigerian Police should initiate a post election and pre-election detailed mapping of polling units and wards with precedence or tendencies of electoral violence, to inform and influence more deployment of trained security personnel to such areas. As witnessed in other countries, eg; Kenya, armed Security personnel should be deployed to

such polling units to deter voter intimidation, electoral violence and other electoral offenses. The Electoral Act should be amended to accommodate this provision. More so, proper security deployment should be made for all collation centers to avoid/eliminate the usual chaotic and tense environment witnessed in most collation centers across the country, which saw some of the ward collation centers abruptly moved to the Local Government or State Collation centers for reasons of security.

9. **Audit of the voter register.** The low voter turnout in the 2023 general election as data shows, in the face of the level of increased awareness, interest and participation seen in both rural and urban settlements, when compared with real physical poor turnouts in the past elections, raises questions to INEC's claims of over 90 million registered voters, and over 87 million PVCs collected, and calls into question the validity of its data. We therefore recommend a total audit and update of the voters register, to remove double/multiple registrations, under aged voters, non Nigerians, and dead people, so that the voter register will reflect Nigeria's voting population reality. This should be done early enough before the next general election and a multi stakeholder approach should be adopted.
10. **Electoral offenders;** Sanctions as prescribed by the 2022 Electoral Act should be meted out to offending electoral officials, security personnel and citizens who engage in electoral malpractices. INEC should ensure that in any situation where any of their staff is found wanting, such staff should be sanctioned, and where the need is, be prosecuted. This will build citizen confidence and trust in INEC's independence and capacity to deliver on her mandate. A systematic process to promote a highly media-publicized prosecution of electoral offenders based on available evidence should be encouraged.
11. **Voter education;** We observed that many voters do not understand the voting process, the electoral laws & INEC election guidelines, the ills of vote buying, and therefore they do not know what to expect from the poll clerks, poll agents and observers. INEC should take additional measures to scale up her voter education campaign ahead of every election using local channels like radio stations & also partner with community/faith based Organizations to sensitize voters. Political parties and civil society organizations should invest in voter education campaigns to sensitize voters ahead of the next election.
12. **Distribution of election observers Identity cards and kits;** While we commend INEC's initiative of online enrollment of observers on the INEC observers portal, we recommend that INEC should start the process in good time, to allow them conclude timely, and ensure omission of names do not happen as many of our observer's names were omitted in the printing of INEC's observer Identity cards, and also to enable timely state wide distribution of observer kits, to allow observer groups ample time to further distribute these IDs and tags across the LGA's of the country. A lot of our observers were not able to receive their INEC printed Identity cards and kits as these materials were released to us in most states across the country less than 24 hours before the commencement of the February 25th Presidential and National Assembly elections. This issue has consistently happened the same way in the past three election cycles, going back as far as the 2015 general election.



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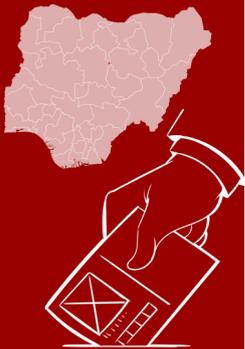
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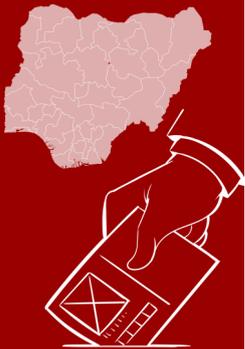
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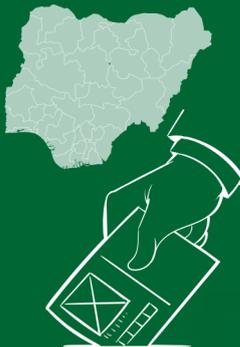
# APPENDIX

Presidential	Gubernatorial
<p><b>Time:</b> 07:52  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 7  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Oku 1  <b>State:</b> Akwa Ibom  <b>LGA:</b> Uyo  <b>Report:</b> INEC officials arrived at the polling unit early  <b>Classification:</b> Positive event</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 11:20  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 3  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Primary School Ogbeke 1  <b>State:</b> Enugu  <b>LGA:</b> Nkanu-West  <b>Report:</b> Civil Unrest. Violence in the polling unit 003 in Primary School Ogbeke 1 in Agbani, was caused when the INEC officials came with an incomplete voting cubicle which was refuted by voters; some party agents insisted that accreditation and voting cannot happen simultaneously; and some thugs threatened the electoral officials. This led to disruption of voting as everyone ran for safety.  <b>Classification:</b> Security</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 20:54  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 5  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> kuyambana primary school  <b>State:</b> Plateau  <b>LGA:</b> Wase  <b>Report:</b> Late Night sorting and counting  <b>Classification:</b> Sorting, counting and collation</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 01:05  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 14  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Obuama Benebo compound  <b>State:</b> Rivers  <b>LGA:</b> Delga  <b>Report:</b> Wrong or Inadequate Voting Material. The election process has been stopped as a result of incomplete ballot papers for the Governorship and state House of assembly constituency, and the electoral materials are being moved from the polling units to the ward/community square  <b>Classification:</b> Polling Station issues</p>





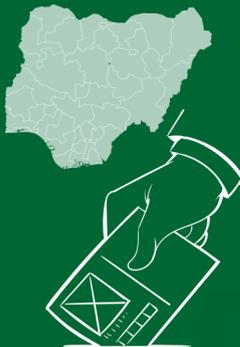
<p><b>Time:</b> 09:35  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 25  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Udaba Dekina  <b>State:</b> Kogi  <b>LGA:</b> Dekina  <b>Report:</b> APC thug attacked the Polling Unit and injured some INEC officials and Voter  <b>Classification:</b> Security</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 08:30  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 24  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Manya, Gusau  <b>State:</b> Zamfara  <b>LGA:</b> Gusau  <b>Report:</b> Smooth Accreditation &amp; Voting. Accreditation and voting on-going. INEC staff, security, and Observers were in the right place and started the voting by 8:30am. Voting is going well, with no issue  <b>Classification:</b> Positive event</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 09:54  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 19  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> ST Raphael catholic primary school ,  <b>Igbara Odo Ekiti</b>  <b>State:</b> Ekiti  <b>LGA:</b> Ekiti South West  <b>Report:</b> Party agents are distracting the voters, the party agents quarreling with the only security, and the INEC officials are trying to settle the issue. Voting Suspended  <b>Classification:</b> Polling Station issues</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 02:57  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 3  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Alabi Gobir Baare  <b>State:</b> Kwara  <b>LGA:</b> Ilorin East  <b>Report:</b> Unused ballots disposed of at Alabi Baare PU. INEC officials destroy residual unused Ballot paper in preparation for counting and collation  <b>Classification:</b> Sorting, counting and collation</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 12:11  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 20  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Area 11, Garki  <b>State:</b> FCT  <b>LGA:</b> Garki  <b>Report:</b> Smooth Accreditation &amp; Voting. Voting of 2023 presidential/National is on going and peaceful conduct is been experienced  <b>Classification:</b> Positive Event</p>	



<p><b>Time:</b> 20:54  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 5  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> kuyambana primary school  <b>State:</b> Plateau  <b>LGA:</b> Wase  <b>Report:</b> Late Night sorting and counting. Voting has been concluded, Sorting the ballot papers for each party about to begin at 10:54 pm  <b>Classification:</b> Sorting, counting and collation</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 04:46  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 11  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Ugbomanta Quarters  <b>State:</b> Delta  <b>LGA:</b> Oshimili South  <b>Report:</b> BVAS Issues. Voting has ended, counting and sorting has been done, BVAS is not uploading results and the officials were allowed to go to the RAC centre for transmission of results  <b>Classification:</b> Polling Station issues</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 10:55  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 16  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Aghareba  <b>State:</b> Bayelsa  <b>LGA:</b> Sagbama  <b>Report:</b> Civil unrest and gunshot. A young boy just shot a woman’s leg, and voting stopped in some of the units  <b>Classification:</b> Security</p>	<p><b>Time:</b>  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 10  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Wasanniya  <b>State:</b> Sokoto  <b>LGA:</b> Taganza  <b>Report:</b> Free and fair election. Elections is free and fair was observed at Tangaza LGA Sokoto State  <b>Classification:</b> Positive event</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 10:34  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 15  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Itapa/osin  <b>State:</b> Ekiti  <b>LGA:</b> Oye  <b>Report:</b> Vote buying is ongoing in both PDP and APC. 10k per vote. PDP are doing transfers while APC are with cash  <b>Classification:</b> Polling Station issues</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 03:30  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 19  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Danialu  <b>State:</b> Kwara  <b>LGA:</b> Ilorin South  <b>Report:</b> Sorting unused ballot papers and counting votes commences at Danialu PU  <b>Classification:</b> Sorting, counting and collation</p>



<p><b>Time:</b> 08:52  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 19  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> OPEN SPACE  ODE-NASAMU ITA-AMODU  <b>State:</b> Kwara  <b>LGA:</b> Ilorin South  <b>Report:</b> The BVAS are working excellently and takes only 3 minutes to vote  <b>Classification:</b> Positive Event</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 05:01  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 3  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Tudun Fulani 1  <b>State:</b> Niger  <b>LGA:</b> Bosso  <b>Report:</b> Civil Unrest. Observers reported in-  terruptions during the ballot paper counting as  PDP and APC workers argued over the issue of  valid and invalid votes  <b>Classification:</b> Security</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 22:01  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 13  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Area C ABU  <b>State:</b> Kaduna  <b>LGA:</b> Sabon Gari  <b>Report:</b> After Completion of the voting  exercise, the BVAS could not upload the  results to INEC server as at 11:01 pm on  25/02/2023. The Ad-hoc staff allegedly  cited bad network as the reason and  decided to move together with the party  agents to the collation center to complain  <b>Classification:</b> Sorting, counting and colla-  tion</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 05:54  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 0  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Orin/Ora ward  <b>State:</b> Ekiti  <b>LGA:</b> Ido/Osi  <b>Report:</b> Voting process ended. Everything was  going smoothly until information was passed  when it's about 30 minutes of closing the poll,  that ballot boxes was burnt in some polling  units (in Ido Ward), which causes fear to the  INEC officials in Orin/Ora Ward and they were  instructed by their SPO to count the Votes and  be quick with it, then move to the RAC Centre  to avert any further violence  <b>Classification:</b> Polling Station issues</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 14:49  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 26  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Suleiman Pacita  <b>State:</b> Niger  <b>LGA:</b> Chanchaga  <b>Report:</b> Inter-party agent clash. During  the vote counting, there was a fight  between PDP and APC operatives over  ballot papers, which resulted in a violent  confrontation. Security personnel are now  on the ground to diffuse tensions  <b>Classification:</b> Security</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 01:45  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 37  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Makama Sarki Bakin  <b>State:</b> Bauchi  <b>LGA:</b> Bauchi  <b>Report:</b> High voters' turnout, women included.  Polling unit 037 of Bauchi LGA records high  rate of women electorate  <b>Classification:</b> Positive event</p>



<p><b>Time:</b> 08:30  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 15  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Itapa/osin  <b>State:</b> Ekiti  <b>LGA:</b> Oye  <b>Report:</b> Low turnout of voters  <b>Classification:</b> Polling Station issues</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 05:26  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 30  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Polatwali Sabon Layi open spaceK  <b>State:</b> Gombe  <b>LGA:</b> Kaltungo  <b>Report:</b> Conclusion of counting and announcement of result. The election has been concluded and announced at the polling unit before it was moved to the local Government collation center  <b>Classification:</b> Sorting, counting and collation</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 07:12  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 16  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Water board  <b>State:</b> Yobe  <b>LGA:</b> Fune  <b>Report:</b> Witnessed the successful distribution of BVAS, sensitive materials, and ballot papers  <b>Classification:</b> Positive Event</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 11:25  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 3  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Anguwar Tsauni  <b>State:</b> Kaduna  <b>LGA:</b> Kudan  <b>Report:</b> Mobilization towards Violence. Security agents reportedly arrested suspected thugs who where allegedly planning to induce violence  <b>Classification:</b> Security</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 21:54  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 17  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Opposite Bilal School London  <b>State:</b> Niger  <b>LGA:</b> Chanchaga  <b>Report:</b> Result Upload Failure. At the end of the election, voter results were not uploaded into the INEC portal because the presiding officer could not have access to the BVAS transmission site. The supervisory presiding officer instructed the PO and his team to meet him at the RAC for the e-transmission (upload) of the results  <b>Classification:</b> Sorting, counting and collation</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 02:00  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 49  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Open Space, Ajagusi Kilanko Road, Ilorin  <b>State:</b> Kwara  <b>LGA:</b> Ilorin South  <b>Report:</b> Physically Challenged or Illiterates Not Assisted. Voting with the BVAS device mostly worked appropriately. However, there was a low turnout, and there were two cases of an elderly man and woman who were unable to vote due to accreditation difficulties  <b>Classification:</b> Polling Station issues</p>



<p><b>Time:</b> 12:50  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 1  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Abogede unit  <b>State:</b> Kogi  <b>LGA:</b> Ankpa  <b>Report:</b> Ballot boxes and ballot papers were destroyed by some groups of angry Voters. Therefore, elections were canceled at the unit.  <b>Classification:</b> Security</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 02:46  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 4  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Maji dadi “B”  <b>State:</b> Bauchi  <b>LGA:</b> Bauchi  <b>Report:</b> Voting time extended. The Presiding Officer extends voting for Maji Dadi “B” polling unit to allow for everyone on the queue to cast their votes  <b>Classification:</b> Positive event</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 12:00  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 13  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Adeyemi  <b>State:</b> Osun  <b>LGA:</b> Ifelodun  <b>Report:</b> Low turnout of voters. INEC official idle because voters are not available. 47 out of 78 voters showed up to cast their vote  <b>Classification:</b> Polling Station issues</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 05:00  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 34  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Yelwa mai nama  <b>State:</b> Sokoto  <b>LGA:</b> Sokoto North  <b>Report:</b> All voting and electoral activities went well. However the voters refuse to give free atmosphere for counting. The ballot boxes were taken to school with security agent where counting will be done  <b>Classification:</b> Sorting, counting and collation</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 08:25  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 6  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Indinwe 1 Primary school  <b>State:</b> Edo  <b>LGA:</b> Esan South East  <b>Report:</b> Voting has commenced  <b>Classification:</b> Positive Event</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 10:07  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 27  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Almajiri school Sade  <b>State:</b> Bauchi  <b>LGA:</b> Darazzo  <b>Report:</b> Civil Unrest. Observers confronted some party agents who engaged in vote buying. This resulted in civil unrest. Normalcy was restored when security personnel’s attention was called  <b>Classification:</b> Security</p>



<p><b>Time:</b> 08:55  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 9  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Government primary school Junior staff Quarter  <b>State:</b> Delta  <b>LGA:</b> Oshimili South  <b>Report:</b> Late arrival of INEC officials and materials. Voters are present in Mass, but Inec officials are yet to arrive with material and time is 09:31 am (Nigerian Time). Security personnel are here too  <b>Classification:</b> Sorting, counting and collation</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 01:16  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 2  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Zaune primary school  <b>State:</b> Gombe  <b>LGA:</b> Dukku  <b>Report:</b> Vote Buying or Inducement. Election is going on smoothly but there is an ongoing prevalence of vote buying in cash and gifts (lace Atamfa) by some parties  <b>Classification:</b> Polling Station issues</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 13:51  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 15  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Oboroke-Ihima, Okehi LGA  <b>State:</b> Kogi  <b>LGA:</b> Okehi  <b>Report:</b> Thugs Reportedly snatched and destroyed Ballot boxes In Oboroke-Ihima, Okehi LGA  <b>Classification:</b> Security</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 04:12  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 3  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Urban 1  <b>State:</b> Abia  <b>LGA:</b> Umuahia North  <b>Report:</b> Results successfully uploaded. Finally uploaded results, although it took time to upload for governorship  <b>Classification:</b> Positive event</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 11:40  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 39  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Simbabe 2  <b>State:</b> Kogi  <b>LGA:</b> Ajaokuta  <b>Report:</b> Incomplete Polling Officials  <b>Classification:</b> Polling Station issues</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 05:27  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 36  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Amaekpu Community School  <b>State:</b> Abia  <b>LGA:</b> Ohafia  <b>Report:</b> Result uploaded offline. Voting and counting has come to an end . The results could not be uploaded online so it was uploaded offline. The electoral officers are about leaving the polling unit to the collation center  <b>Classification:</b> Sorting, counting and collation</p>



<p><b>Time:</b> 09:00  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 6  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Osagburu  <b>State:</b> Ekiti  <b>LGA:</b> Ikere  <b>Report:</b> INEC officials prepare to commence the election. The INEC officials are on the ground sorting out the election material for proper documentation  <b>Classification:</b> Positive Event</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 11:07  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 91  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Princess Eneni Street. Victory estate  <b>State:</b> Lagos  <b>LGA:</b> Ojo  <b>Report:</b> Attacks on Voters by Thugs. Polling unit has been heavily attacked by APC hoodlums, voters were even attacked in the process. They are currently recuperating. Votes have been canceled in the polling unit  <b>Classification:</b> Security</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 06:31  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 5  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Ibeku east ward 1  <b>State:</b> Abia  <b>LGA:</b> Umuahia North  <b>Report:</b> Voting is over and counting is in progress  <b>Classification:</b> Sorting, counting and collation</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 12:30  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 16  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> UBE primary school, Jikpan  <b>State:</b> Niger  <b>LGA:</b> Bosso  <b>Report:</b> Vote Buying or Inducement. EFCC officials searched the cars parked in the polling unit &amp; discovered food stuffs belonging to one of the party which was later confiscated  <b>Classification:</b> Polling Station issues</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 18:40  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 10  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Umuokoroala Okpuala  <b>State:</b> Abia  <b>LGA:</b> Umuahia North  <b>Report:</b> Altercation between party agents in Umuokoroala Okpuala. The sorting and counting process was going well till an ex-counsellor came with violence and tore the Labour Party ballot papers because of their PDP candidate  <b>Classification:</b> Security</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 02:25  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 9  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Numui  <b>State:</b> Niger  <b>LGA:</b> Bosso  <b>Report:</b> Late Arrival of INEC Officials. Though election officials came late, accreditation and voting have begun peacefully. Security officials are also on the here  <b>Classification:</b> Positive event</p>

<p><b>Time:</b> 09:16  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 7  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Ajaka hall  <b>State:</b> Ekiti  <b>LGA:</b> Ikere  <b>Report:</b> Partisan Polling Officials. Party agents are trying to convince people at the polling booth, which has led to a clash of interest, interrupting the election process.  <b>Classification:</b> Polling Station issues</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 05:43  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 5  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Urban 1  <b>State:</b> Abia  <b>LGA:</b> Umuahia North  <b>Report:</b> Result uploaded after a free and fair election. Voting and counting have come to an end. The results were uploaded online. The electoral officers have left. The Election was a free and fair one  <b>Classification:</b> Sorting, counting and collation</p>
<p><b>Time:</b> 09:13  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 21  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Omuma  <b>State:</b> Imo  <b>LGA:</b> Oru East  <b>Report:</b> No election was held in the polling unit as the materials were diverted to a private residence for a chieftain. Election not held in any of the polling units in Oru East LGA  <b>Classification:</b> Security</p>	<p><b>Time:</b>  <b>Polling Unit:</b> 35  <b>Polling Unit Name:</b> Open space, OkeFia  <b>State:</b> Osun  <b>LGA:</b> Osogbo  <b>Report:</b> Presence of International observers. EU Observation Team led by Annie- Lise Mjaat-veldt from Norway and her assistant, Akinwate Adeye Martins got to the polling unit at the polling unit at 2.03pm and observed  <b>Classification:</b> Positive event</p>



# PHOTOS

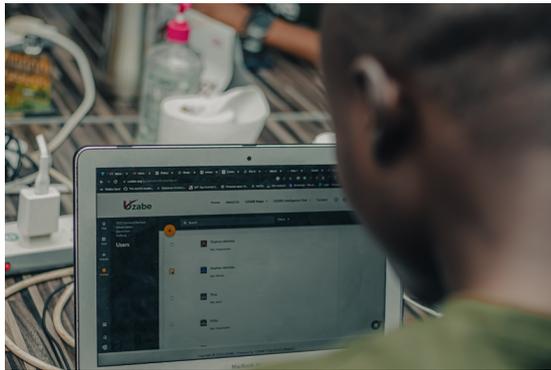
## Launch Of UZABE Situation Room



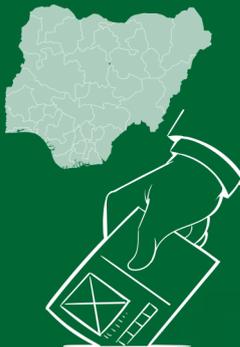
## UZABE General Election Situation Room



## UZABE Gubernatorial Election Situation Room



## EU Observers Visits UZABE Situation Room



## Observers On The Field



